

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10360 01 OF 03 262125Z
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P 262104Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6849
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
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USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HATHAWAY
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD
GENEVA FOR MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, ETRD, EEC
SUBJECT: US-EC CONSULTATIONS: HIGHLIGHTS

1. SEMI-ANNUAL US-EC HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WERE
HELD IN BRUSSELS MAY 25-26. US INTERAGENCY DELEGA-
TION WAS LED BY UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS COOPER AND EC DELEGATION LED BY VICE PRESIDENT
HAFERKAMP WITH OTHER COMMISSIONERS AND COMMISSION
OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS.

2. ATMOSPHERE:
TONE OF DISCUSSION THROUGHOUT WAS FRIENDLY AND POSITIVE.
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 10360 01 OF 03 262125Z

RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON MOST MAJOR ISSUES ARE IN HARMONY
THOUGH SOME DIFFERENCES EMERGED WITH RESPECT TO STEEL
POLICY DISCUSSION OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WAS CONSTRUCTIVE
BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT FURTHER EFFORTS WILL BE NECESSARY
TO RESOLVE THEM.

3. GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION:

THE FIRST AGENDA ITEM, THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, WAS FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO ASSURE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE COMING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS CULMINATING IN THE JULY ECONOMIC SUMMIT. THE TWO SIDES WERE IN CLOSE AGREEMENT IN THEIR DIAGNOSIS OF PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY WORLD GROWTH TRENDS, AND THE NEED FOR COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL ACTION WHICH WOULD HELP EASE PRESENT CONSTRAINTS ON STIMULATIVE ACTION BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.

WITH GROWTH PROSPECTS IN EUROPE PARTICULARLY WEAK, COMMISSION REPS REVIEWED COMMUNITY PROGRAM TOWARDS CONCERTED ACTION PROGRAM WHICH WOULD AIM TO RAISE AN OVERALL GROWTH RATE FROM PRESENT FORECASTS OF AROUND 3 PERCENT IN 1979 TOWARDS THEIR TARGET OF 4 1/2 PERCENT BY MID-1979. IN THE UNITED STATES GROWTH PROSPECTS WERE SATISFACTORY, AND ATTENTION WAS SHIFTING TO THE PROBLEM OF OBTAINING FURTHER PROGRESS AGAINST INFLATION. THE US CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUMMIT STRATEGY WOULD BE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ADEQUATE GROWTH, STRENGTHENED ANTI-INFLATION, AND ENERGY POLICIES. THE EC SIDE ALSO DISCUSSED THE DISPARITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ON INFLATION TRENDS AND EXTERNAL BALANCE, AND THE CLOSELY RELATED PROBLEM OF IMPROVING EXCHANGE RATES STABILITY. POSSIBLE NEAR-TERM STEPS TO INCREASE INTRA-EUROPEAN EXCHANGE STABILITY WERE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS. THE US EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTIVE EUROPEAN EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION AND THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 10360 01 OF 03 262125Z

AND MONETARY UNION. IN THE CONTEXT OF SUMMIT STRATEGY THE TWO SIDES EXCHANGED SIMILAR VIEWS ON JAPAN AND RESOURCE TRANSFER TO LDC.S.

THE US SIDE URGED SUPPORT OF THE OECD INITIATIVE ("POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT POLICIES") TO EXAMINE AND DEAL WITH THE TREND OF GROWING MICROECONOMIC GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION AS A FORM OF "NEW PROTECTIONISM". THE EC SUGGESTED THAT THIS EFFORT BE PUT INTO CONCRETE FORM VIA EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE GATT.

4. ENERGY:

DURING THE DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY ISSUES, COMMISSION OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR THE MAY 30 EC ENERGY COUNCIL AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SOME OF THE MEASURES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT PROJECTS IN THE ENERGY AREA MAY BE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE. REGARDING TREATMENT OF THE BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN JULY, THE US SIDE EXPRESSED RESERVE REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING IT ENDORSE NATIONAL CEILINGS ON OIL IMPORTS OR SPECIFIC TARGETS FOR PRODUCTION FROM OTHER ENERGY SOURCES. THE US SIDE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE THE

SUMMIT ENDORSE SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE PROJECTS FOR ENERGY COOPERATION. UNDER SECRETARY COOPER SAID THE US FELT THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AN INCREASE OF OIL PRICES THROUGH 1978 DESPITE PRESSURE FROM SOME OF THE FINAN-
CIALLY PRESSED OPEC STATES. WHILE THE DEMAND FOR ENERGY WILL EVENTUALLY OVERTAKE THE SUPPLY, EXACTLY WHEN THIS WILL OCCUR WILL DEPEND PRIMARILY UPON LEVELS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. BUT PROJECTIONS SUGGEST THAT IT SHOULD OCCUR SOME TIME BETWEEN 1983 AND THE EARLY 1990.S. THE EC SIDE GENERALLY AGREED, BUT FELT THAT A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES COULD DELAY THE ENERGY CRUNCH. BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE NEED FOR SUCH AN EFFORT DURING THE PRESENT APPARENT ENERGY GLUT. BOTH SIDES ALSO AGREED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BRUSSE 10360 01 OF 03 262125Z

INFCE IS PROCEEDING WELL AND IS HELPFUL IN INCREASING

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10360 02 OF 03 262134Z
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UNDERSTANDING OF NUCLEAR ISSUES. THE EC SIDE FELT THAT IF A CLEAR CONSENSUS DOES NOT EMERGE FROM INFCE, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE A POST-INFCE POLICY EXERCISE TO DETERMINE HOW THE INFCE FINDINGS SHOULD BE APPLIED. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT WHILE AN ENERGY DIALOGUE WITH THE OIL PRODUCERS WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL, THIS COULD PROBABLY NOT BE UNDERTAKEN DIRECTLY AND THAT WE SHOULD SEARCH FOR INDIRECT WAYS TO ACHIEVE IT. THE US POINTED OUT THAT IF THE UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CONTINUES, WHEN IT EXAMINES WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES IT WILL HAVE TO ENCOMPASS AN ENERGY DIALOGUE AS WELL. SINCE THE QUESTION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION ACT IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES, IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 10360 02 OF 03 262134Z

CONSULTATIONS. HOWEVER, UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AND COMMISSIONER BRUNNER HAD A USEFUL EXCHANGE ON THE SUBJECT DURING AN INFORMAL PRIVATE MEETING.

5. NORTH/SOUTH:

THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT AFTER A PROMISING START, THE MAY MEETING OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) HAD DEGENERATED INTO THE USUAL DEMAND BY THE G-77 FOR AGREEMENT ON TEXTS CONTAINING FIRM COMMITMENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF DEVELOPING STATES. THE G-77 REPRESENTATIVES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN NEW YORK, FEEL THAT SUCCESS IN SUCH INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IS MEASURED ONLY IN TERMS OF WHAT CONCRETE BENEFITS THEY CAN OBTAIN FOR THEIR GROUP. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD TRY TO HAVE THE COW PRESIDENT OBTAIN PARTICIPATION BY G-77 REPRESENTATIVES AT THE COW MEETING IN SEPTEMBER WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TERMINATE SERIOUS PARTICIPATION IN COW IF IT APPEARS THAT THE G-77 ARE NOT WILLING TO ENTER INTO SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC ISSUES WITHOUT PUSHING FOR IMMEDIATE GAINS. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE CONVEYED DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF CERTAIN KEY G-77 MEMBERS IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS WHO WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY THAN THEIR NEW YORK REPRESENTATION.

6. LOME CONVENTION:

THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE LOME CONVENTION (WHICH EXPIRES IN MARCH 1980), INCLUDING THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR LOME II REGARDING PROTEC

TON OF HUMAN RIGHTS; A SYSTEM OF INVESTMENT PROTECTION AND
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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 10360 02 OF 03 262134Z

GUARANTEES COVERING EUROPEAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE
THIRD WORLD; MARITIME FISHING RIGHTS; AND ADHERENCE TO
CERTAIN UNIVERSALLY-RECOGNIZED ILO NORMS ON CONDITIONS
OF LABOR. THE US SIDE WELCOMED THE COMMISSION'S EFFORTS
TO INCORPORATE A PREAMBULAR REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE REVISED CONVENTION, BUT SAW PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES
IN IMPLEMENTING A SCHEME TO ENSURE FAIR TRADE COMPETITION
BASED ON APPLICATION OF LABOR STANDARDS APPROVED BY THE
ILO.

7. SUGAR: TO REGISTER
UNDER SECRETARY COOPER TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER
US CONCERN OVER THE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON WORLD SUGAR MARKETS
OF EC-ACP POLICY UNDER LOME CONVENTION'S SUGAR PROTOCOL.
HE SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMUNITY MOVE TO HARMONIZE ITS
POLICIES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR
AGREEMENT. WHILE IT DID NOT ACCEPT THE FOREGOING PREMISE
WITH REGARD TO THE SUGAR PROTOCOL, THE EC SIDE AGREED TO
"TAKE NOTE" OF US CONCERNS IN THIS AREA.

8. COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE TOPIC OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE US/EC CONSULTA-
TIONS. AFTER AN INITIAL COMMISSION PRESENTATION ABOUT
THE ROLE AND SCOPE OF THE EC'S COMMON POLICY, THE TWO
SIDES -- UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AND DIRECTOR GENERAL
SCHUSTER (DG XII) -- AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING SIX
AREAS WERE PROMISING FIELDS FOR US/EC COOPERATION:
(1) RAW MATERIALS, (2) MEDICAL RESEARCH, (3) FORECAST-
ING AND ASSESSMENT, (4) SECONDARY RAW MATERIALS, (5)
CLIMATOLOGY, AND (6) ENZYME TECHNOLOGY. THERE WAS
AGREEMENT THAT THE NEXT STEP WAS TO HAVE EXPERTS FROM
THE TWO SIDES MEET IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SELECT FIELDS
FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION AND WORK OUT CONCRETE MODES
OF COOPERATION.

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PAGE 04 BRUSSE 10360 02 OF 03 262134Z

9. STEEL:
STEEL SUBJECTS WERE TREATED IN A WORKING GROUP ON THE
25TH AND A PLENARY SESSION ON THE 26TH. AT THE END OF
THESE MEETINGS IT WAS AGREED TO HOLD A FURTHER MEETING

LATER ON THE 26TH TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF RESOLVING

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10360 03 OF 03 262205Z
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REMAINING DIFFERENCES ON AN INTERNATIONAL STEEL ARRANGE-
MENT. THE EC FEELS IT NEEDS SOME MEASURE OF ASSURANCE
SHORT OF A COMMITMENT THAT ANTI-DUMPING CASES INITIATED
PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM
WILL BE WITHDRAWN OR TERMINATED. THE US EXPLAINED THE
LEGAL AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THIS
REGARD. THE COMMISSION IS CONCERNED AT THE POSSIBILITY
THAT A MULTI-TIERED TRIGGER PRICE WOULD BE USED, I.E. A
SEPARATE TRIGGER PRICE FOR EUROPEAN STEEL. AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED ON DRAFT TEXT OF A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN
OECD STEEL GROUP WITH THE VERY IMPORTANT EXCEPTION THAT
THE TWO SIDES WERE NOT YET ABLE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES ON
INITIAL COMMITMENTS WHERE KEY ISSUE IS WILLINGNESS OF EC
TO BRING ITS ACTIONS UNDER ITS GATT OBLIGATIONS.

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 10360 03 OF 03 262205Z

10. MTN:

BOTH SIDES AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF MEETING JULY DEADLINE FOR CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS. COOPER REVIEWED BRIEFLY EACH MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE, INDICATING US CONCERNS AND AREAS WHERE PROBLEMS REMAINED. HAFERKAMP AND DENMAN DID SAME FROM EC VIEWPOINT. DENMAN STATED THAT HE AND DEPUTY STR MCDONALD HAD LAID OUT SCHEDULE FOR FREQUENT MEETINGS IN NEXT FEW WEEKS TO PREPARE AS MANY ISSUES AS POSSIBLE FOR MINISTERIAL DECISION AT TRILATERAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON JUNE 19-20. COOPER AND HAFERKAMP AGREED THAT ONLY ABOUT A MONTH REMAINS TO REACH AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND THAT REMAINING TIME BEFORE SUMMIT MUST BE SPENT IN BRINGING OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND LDC.S INTO THE PROCESS.

11. OTHER TRADE ISSUES: A NUMBER OF TRADE ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED FIRST IN WORKING GROUP SESSION MAY 25 AND THEN REVIEWED IN PLENARY MAY 26. THESE INCLUDED: EC SUBSIDIES ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, EC PLANS FOR SYNTHETIC FIBER AND PAPER INDUSTRIES, WAIVERS ON CANNED HAMS AND BUTTER COOKIES, SUGAR AND US EXPORTS OF POULTRY PARTS. IN ADDITION, DURING PLENARY, EC SIDE EXPRESSED POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO IT OF ENDING SPECIALTY STEEL QUOTAS ON SCHEDULE IN MID-1979, AND OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR COUNTERVAILING DUTY WAIVER EXTENSION SHOULD PRESENT NEGOTIATION ON SUBSIDY-COUNTERVAILING DUTY CODE NOT SUCCEED. EC ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER ZENITH AND US STEEL TAX REBATE CASES. US INDICATED INDUSTRY AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE CIRCUMVENTION OF EXPORT CREDIT CONSENSUS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1 ON AIRCRAFT AND JUNE 15 MEETING ON LNG TANKERS ARE REGARDED BY THE US AS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT. WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO RAISE EXPORT CREDIT COMPETITION AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 10360 03 OF 03 262205Z

OECD MINISTERIAL AND POSSIBLY AT THE BONN SUMMIT. EACH SIDE TOOK NOTE OF POINTS MADE BY OTHER AND PROMISED AN EARLY RESPONSE.

12. POLITICAL ISSUES:

DISCUSSION WAS CONDUCTED IN RESTRICTED SESSION AND COVERED THREE ISSUES: EC-CEMA RELATIONS, YUGOSLAVIA, AND TURKEY (MAINLY FORCUSED ON PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT.S DISCUSSIONS AT THE COMMISSION ON MAY 25). WITH REGARD TO EC-CEMA, COMMISSION DESCRIBED NEXT STEPS IN ITS CAUTIOUS EXPLANATION OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE. BOTH SIDES AGREED IT IS IN WESTERN INTEREST TO ASSIST YUGOSLAVIA TO MAINTAIN ITS BALANCE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST; COMMISSION

SAID IT HOPES CURRENT EC PROPOSALS REGARDING AN EXPANDED EC-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT CAN BE IMPROVED, BUT THAT A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS THAT YUGOSLAVIA DOES NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENT IT WANTS. TURKISH PRIME MINISTER.S DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMISSION HAVE APPARENTLY PAVED THE WAY FOR IMPROVED EC-TURKEY RELATIONS. ECEVIT SAID TURKEY IS NOT AGAINST GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC, BUT WORRIES THAT FOLLOWING ACCESSION GREECE WILL WORK AGAINST TURKEY.S INTERESTS. COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS TOLD ECEVIT EC DOES NOT INTEND TO BECOME A FORUM FOR GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS.

13. THE UNDER SECRETARY, AMBASSADOR HINTON, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE MET INFORMALLY WITH THE HEADS OF THE MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST DAY.S MEETINGS. TALKS COVERED MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND AS COVERED IN THE FORMAL CONSULTATIONS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONSULTATIONS, THE PRINCIPAL US AND EC REPRESENTATIVES HELD A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE. FULL TEXT IS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. HINTON

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